Levy of cess on domestic tourists

2274. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to levy cess on domestic tourists visiting foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Ministry of Finance does not propose to levy cess on domestic tourists visiting foreign countries for the present.

Insurance cover to vehicles plying to J&K

2275. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Insurance companies, particularly the four General Insurance Companies under Government ownership, are refusing to continue insurance cover for vehicles, both carrying passengers and cargo, when plying to Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have approved the pleas, if any, of these Insurance companies; if so, the rationale therefor; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to enforce continuation of insurance cover by all Insurance companies operating in the country for vehicles all over India uniformly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that State Government of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has reported a number of complaints about absence of insurance cover/renewal for heavy commercial vehicles in J&K.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. IRDA has reported that the Authority *vide* its recent circular dated 29th July, 2005 had directed all general insurance companies that no operating office should deny Third Party Liability Cover to any motor vehicle having a valid fitness certificate.